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GROUP 1
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downgrading and declassification

12 October 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : MCA 57 and MCA 60

REFERENCES : Memorandum For Secretary, CIA Management Committee; dated 12 September 1973;
Subj: Proposed Topics for Unclassified Histories (MCA-57)Memorandum For Director of Central Intelligence; dated 19 September 1973;
Subj: Proposal for Declassification and Release of Selected Agency Publications and Histories (MCA-60)

1. Before addressing these actions individually it is suggested that MCA 60 (Proposal for Declassification and Release of Selected Agency Publications and Histories) should be considered prior to MCA 57 (Proposed Topics for Unclassified Histories). The fact is that MCA 60 is concerned with the policy relating to a plan to increase the amount of information made available to the public and MCA 57 is related to one aspect in the implementation of that policy.

2. MCA 60. It is suggested that approval be given to the plan proposed in MCA 60 assuming that the DCI is in favor of the basic policy behind it, which is one of increasing the direct release of information available to the public about the Agency and the Intelligence Community. The plan itself, as pointed out in the background, takes advantage of a release technique currently in use (DOCEX). The plan also establishes a mechanism for reviewing what can be released as well as for a systematic review of products by each production office. The plan also notes that no official history currently available should be considered for declassification and release at this time. The history problem related to the plan is the subject matter of MCA 57

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3. MCA 57. Proposed Topics for Unclassified Histories are all indeed historical with the exception of some aspects of Item 14 (The Intelligence Community) on page 11 and Item 15, The Reconnaissance Satellite, on page 12, which in both instances I suggest IC has a primary interest in, per the 15 topics listed.

4. Item 14. The Intelligence Community. Using the completed histories of Smith, Dulles and McCone to produce a community historical view does not take care of the first sentence of this item, i.e., what it is and how it works. To deal with this I think we would have to set up a special project which addresses the community today and how it works. However, I think this should only be done if we believe the current open literature, i.e., such books as "The Intelligence Community" by Lyman Kirkpatrick and "The American Intelligence Community" by General Monro MacCloskey, present a sufficient and recent enough picture of the intelligence community to the public and the media.

5. Item 15. Reconnaissance Satellite. It is difficult to understand the work plan outlined under this item. It appears to me that the main point has to do with the policy of admission of the fact of satellite reconnaissance. Although much has been written in the public media about satellite reconnaissance, and President Johnson came as close to national admission as anyone, the Intelligence Community has never accepted national admission as de facto. To talk about a retiring project manager [redacted] submitting a summary outline for public disclosure appears premature. If we are going to consider the problem of the amount of information made available to the public, it seems to me that we shall have to deal with more fundamental policy issues than those which appear in the mentioned DDS&T proposal.

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[redacted]
Chief,
Special Projects Branch, PRG/IC

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WES/lah

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